

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 092

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMBEMBASSY LONDON 5461

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VT, GW, GE

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATORS FOR EAST GERMAN CHURCH

REF: ROME 2768

1. VATICAN ANNOUNCED JULY 23 THAT POPE PAUL HAD MADE
FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS IN GDR HIERARCHY:

A. HUGO AUFDERBECK, TITULAR BISHOP OF ARCA IN PHOENICIA, TO
BE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF THE TERRITORIES OF ERFURT AND
MEININGEN;

B. JOHANNES GEORG BRAUN, TITULAR BISHOP OF PUTIA IN
BYZACENA, TO BE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF TERRITORY OF MAGDEBURG;

C. HEINRICH THEISSING, TITULAR BISHOP OF MINA, TO BE APOSTOLIC
ADMINISTRATOR OF SCHWERIN; AND

D. KARL EBERT, CREATED TITULAR BISHOP OF DRUAS AND NAMED AS
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DEPUTY TO HUGO AUFDERBECK.

2. IN RESPONSE TO URGINGS FROM WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND EPISCOPATE, HOLY SEE DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO SEVER EAST GERMAN PORTIONS OF DIOCESES WHICH HAVE THEIR SEATS IN WEST GERMANY. ABOVE CHANGES MERELY RAISE THREE PRELATES WHO PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED AS "COMMISSIONERS" TO FULL APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATORS, A STEP WHICH REMOVES THEM FROM ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THEIR FORMER SUPERIORS IN WEST GERMANY AND PLACES THEM DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE TO HOLY SEE. CARDINAL BENGSCHE OF BERLIN REMAINS ONLY GERMAN PRELATE WHOSE RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUE TO STRADDLE POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF GERMANY.

3. ACCORDING TO GERMANY EMBASSY TO HOLY SEE, ABOVE COMPROMISE SOLUTION REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES. SOURCE SAID HE KNOWS VATICAN HAD DECIDED TO MAKE ABOVE CHANGES OVER ONE MONTH AGO, AND THAT ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI HAD SO INFORMED FORMIN WINZER WHEN THEY MET IN HELSINKI. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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